

Spotted Owl Habitat Conservation in Dry Forests



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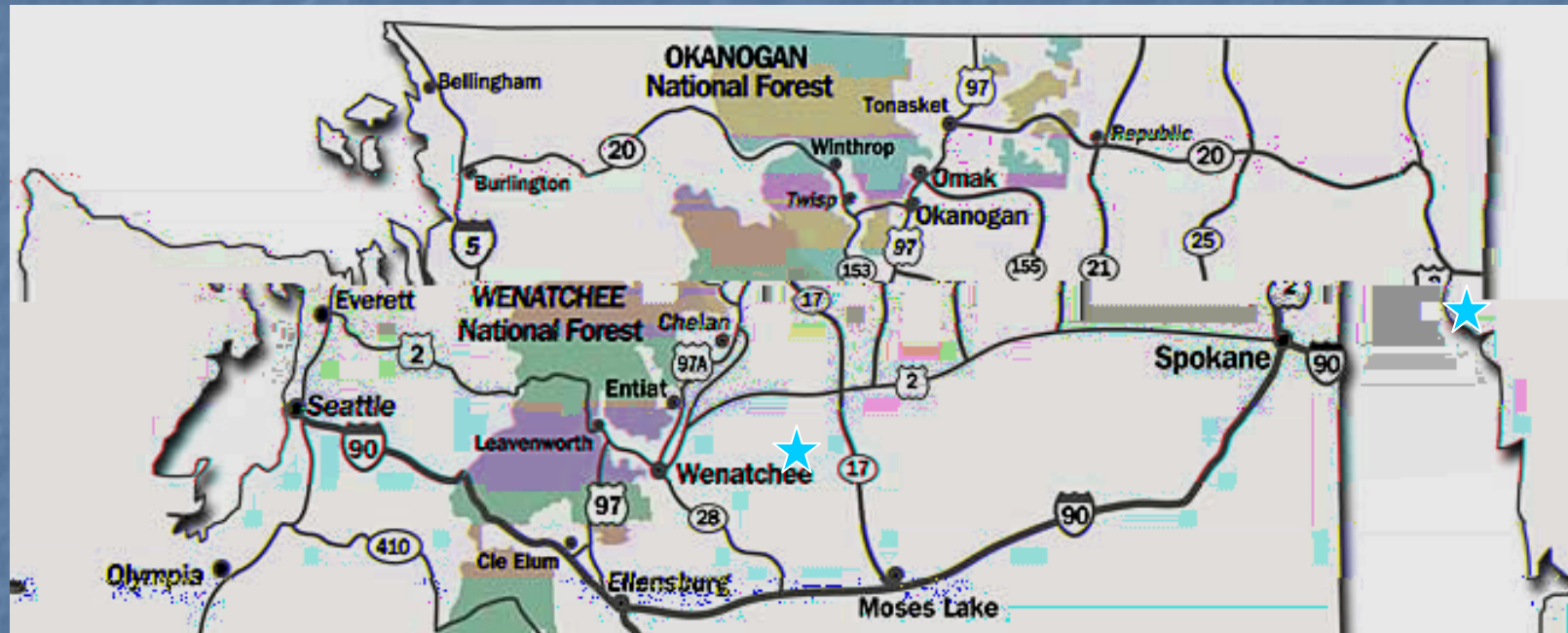
Background

- Previous workshops
- How or have these prescriptions been tested?
- Central Questions:
 1. Where do you treat?
 2. How do you treat?

WECP Conservation Strategy

- ISC, CHU, FEMAT, NWFP, SOSEA, LSRA, etc.
- 5.7 million-acre province
- 4 clusters of 15-20 pair of spotted owls
- OOWNF and Yakama Nation are key areas
- Meta-population: large clusters and connectivity
- Smaller clusters and other habitat areas
- Threats: fire and barred owls

Vicinity Map

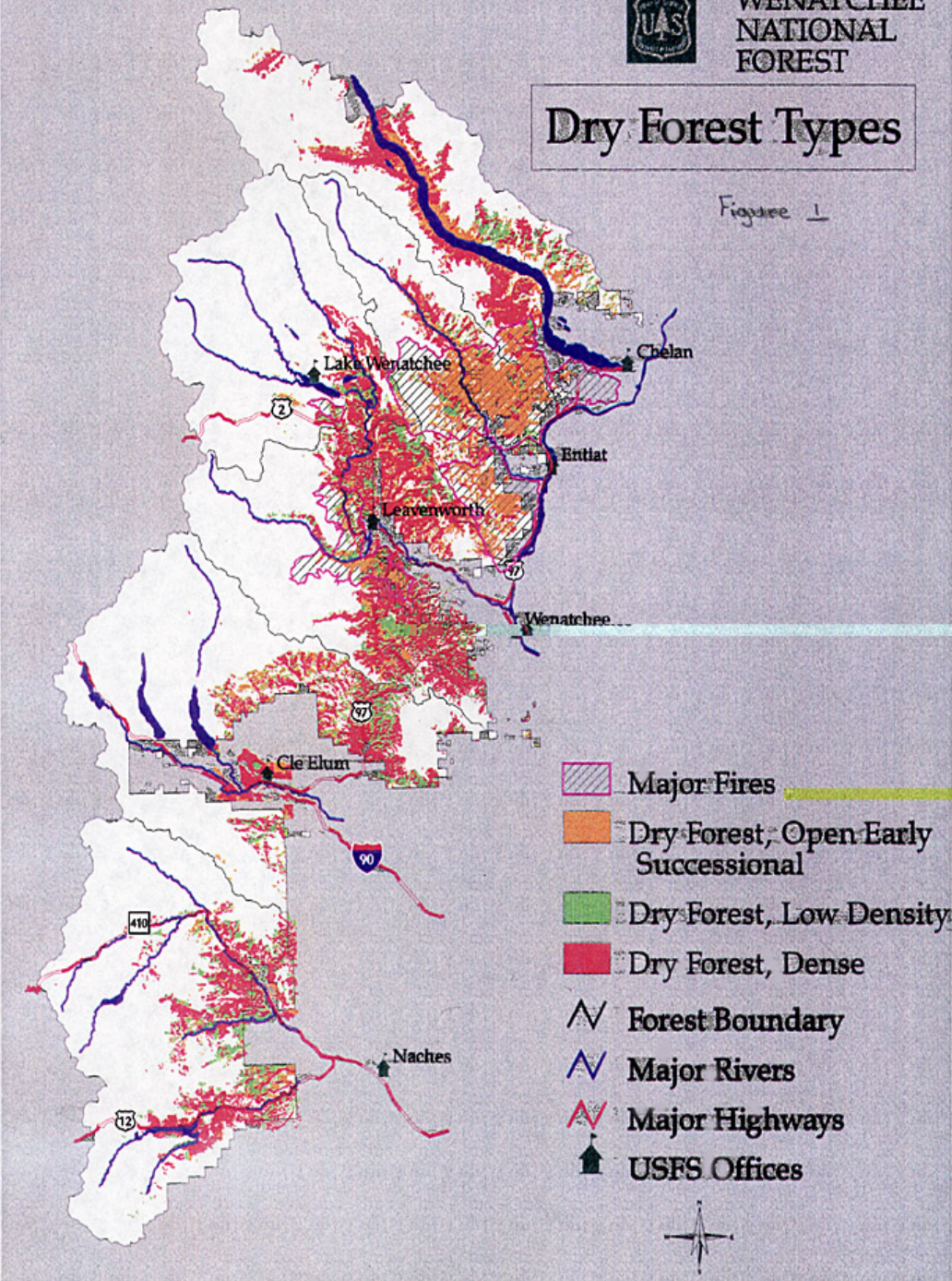




WENATCHEE
NATIONAL
FOREST

Dry Forest Types

Figure 1



Fire and Owl Habitat

- 1994-2006: removal of about 36,000 acres of suitable habitat from over 475,000 acres burned
- Significant fire seasons: 1994, 1998, and 2001-2004
- Largest threat of habitat removal is fire, not timber harvest

Considerations for Spotted Owls

- Treat to reduce fire size and severity
- Stand vs. landscape treatments
- Within or outside suitable habitat
- The value of survey data: management flexibility and precision
- Priority: surface, ladder, density
- Short-term vs. long-term (effects and benefits)

WECP: Conservation Approach

- “No take” approach to habitat management
- Avoid habitat removal within 0.7 mile radius (i.e., the core area)
- Maintain habitat for our 4 large clusters
- Unknowns/concerns: barred owl and a potential range contraction
- Monitor and evaluate

Reality Check

- Owl trends: “No take” at the activity center scale is vital to the WECF strategy
- Population vs. habitat management?
- Treatment should be strategic (OWNF experience is the largest projects are similarly sized as the smallest fires)
- Monitor and evaluate

Questions?